

Dr. Kris Miler Bio

Kris Miler is an associate professor in the Department of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland. She studies Congress with a focus on political representation in the U.S. Congress, especially the extent to which the interests of unorganized citizens and organized interests are represented in the lawmaking process. Professor Miler has received multiple teaching awards and regularly teaches in the areas of legislative politics and interest groups.

Dr. Miler is the author of *Poor Representation: Congress and the Politics of Poverty in the United States* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), which won the Woodrow Wilson Award from the American Political Science Association for the best book on government, politics, or international affairs. In this research, she demonstrates in multiple ways how Congress has fallen short in providing political representation to poor Americans, even in districts with high levels of poverty, leaving the poor to rely on surrogate representatives for a voice in Congress. She is also the author of *Constituency Representation in Congress: The View from Capitol Hill* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), which received the American Political Science Association's Alan Rosenthal Award for research on questions of importance to legislators and their staff with potential to strengthen the practice of representative democracy. This book shows how cognitive processes cause legislators and their staff to see an incomplete picture of the constituents in their district, and reveals the impact of these perceptions on legislators' behavior in the policymaking process.

Her current research includes two collaborative, interdisciplinary projects: one examines cooperation and conflict in the U.S. House through the lens of organizational psychology, and the other uses computational linguistics to identify informal congressional networks and patterns of legislative behavior.